

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NEBRASKA

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NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION RELOCATES --USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$486,000 TO BUILD FACILITY

Lincoln, Nebraska, July 18-The Nebraska Rural Water Association, Inc. (NeRWA) will be located in a new facility thanks to an USDA Rural Development loan of \$486,000. USDA approved funding for the project on June 29, 2001. These funds will be used for the construction of a 5,000 square foot building located in the Wahoo Industries Airpark.

NeRWA is currently operating out of leased space that is located at the end of a storage facility. This space has limited parking, insufficient room for staff, and no room for training sessions or demonstrations. The growth in staff and need for a training room has necessitated the development of a new facility.

Roger Meeks, rural development specialist for USDA Rural Development stated, "There is currently no rental space available to which the NeRWA could move into that would meet their needs." "The new building will be very beneficial to the NeRWA and its members."

The proposed facility will feature a training/board room, a bay/storage area for equipment and vehicles, a waiting/reception area, kitchen, nine offices for technical support staff and space for file storage and office equipment.

The USDA funds will be used for construction costs, purchasing equipment and furnishings and for professional fees associated with the development of the facility. The USDA Rural Development loan will be repaid over 40 years at 4.75 percent interest.

The NeRWA is responsible for training and assisting the communities of Nebraska with the operation of their water and sanitary sewer systems. They also provide an extensive operator training program, which allows utility operators to maintain their licenses to operate water and sanitary sewer systems within the State of Nebraska.

USDA Rural Development is a credit arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture whose mission is to provide financial assistance to rural communities who are unable to secure acceptable credit elsewhere for housing, community facilities, and business development. Assistance provided can be in the form of grants, direct loans, and guarantees on loans made by commercial lenders.

The USDA Rural Development loan funds were provided through the Community Facility Loan Program. For additional information contact Roger Meeks in the USDA Rural Development Office, 6030 S. 58th Street Suite B Lincoln, Neb. 68516 or phone (402) 423-9683. Website: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/.

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